

North American Notes

Louganis Dives into Controversies

March 19 marks the date when the USA network premieres "Breaking the Surface," the biopic of gay Olympic diver Greg Louganis, but don't expect to see any same-sex kissing or physical signs of affection. Instead, viewers will be treated to scenes of violent encounters Louganis had with one of his partners, further proof that in the world of film and TV, violence is much more marketable than love.

The program stars Mario Lopez from "Saved by the Bell" as the champion diver and is based on Louganis's best-selling autobiography *Breaking the Surface*. In defense of the cable channel's decision to edit the intimacy, producer Jim Green made the tired and untrue comment that television viewers just aren't ready for such scenes.

Meanwhile, Louganis faces other challenges in the ever-increasingly homophobic state of Florida, where news of a planned lecture on April 8 has resulted in a heated and mean-spirited outpouring of political rhetoric from state Senator John Grant (R-Tampa). In a letter to the President of the University of South Florida, where Louganis was to speak, Grant wrote that such an event could only be seen as "moral decadence and an embarrassment to the university community."

At present, Louganis has not canceled plans to appear at USF, where he will deliver the keynote address for the university's third annual Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week.

Pre-Nuptial Disagreements

In a fervor not seen since the war on drugs, state after state around the nation has been rushing to pass legislation to prohibit recognition of same-sex marriages before the Hawai'i Supreme Court makes its final decision on cases pending there. Below is a partial list of the states currently considering or passing related legislation as of mid-February:

ARKANSAS: The House and the Senate Judiciary Committee have each passed a bill prohibiting same-sex marriages.

COLORADO: Domestic Partnership measure SB 161 died in a Senate committee.

FLORIDA: Anti-gay marriage bill has been moving along in the Senate and House.

INDIANA: The chair of the Family, Children, and Human Affairs committee blocked an anti-gay marriage bill in the House.

MAINE: Concerned Maine Families strikes once again with a ballot initiative to prohibit recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states.

MARYLAND: HB 398 prohibits same-sex marriage using similar language to a bill which was defeated in the last session. A civil rights bill there may also be considered by the House Judiciary Committee in the very near future.

MINNESOTA: The chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee refused to give an anti-gay marriage measure a hearing, thus blocking its progress.

MISSISSIPPI: Voters will have final approval on a constitutional amendment against same-sex marriages passed by that state's legislators.

NEBRASKA: Legislators are considering two separate bills to recognize and support same-sex marriages.

VERMONT: And you didn't think it could happen here. See story on page one. Political analysts predict that the bill will languish and die in committee.

VIRGINIA: The Governor is expected to sign into law a bill which would deny recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states.

WASHINGTON: An anti-gay marriage bill will be challenged by a domestic partnership bill written by openly gay legislator Ed Murray. In a recent poll, 56% of registered voters were opposed to legislation denying recognition of same-sex marriages. Simply put, the majority were on our side in Washington. ▼

The next issue of Out in the Mountains arrives on April 5th!

Be sure your event or article is included -- Deadline is March 17th!

Health Resources

All phone numbers are 802 area code unless noted.

HIV/AIDS HOTLINES

Vermont: (800) 882-2437
New Hampshire: (800) 752-2437
New York State: (800) 541-2437
Massachusetts: (617) 522-4090
Maine: (800) 851-2437
National: (800) 342-2437
National TTY: (800) 243-7889
Teen Hotline: (800) 234-TEEN

Addison County AIDS Network (ACAN)

352-6679 or 388-4193

AIDS Community Awareness Project (ACAP)

PO Box 608 • St. Johnsbury VT 05819 • 748-1149

AIDS Community Resource Network (ACoRN)

PO Box 2057 • Lebanon NH 03766 • (603) 448-2220 or (800) 816-2220 • E-mail: acorn@valley.net

ALANA Health Care Organization

PO Box 357 • 179 S. Winooski Street • Burlington VT 05402 • 864-2631 or 864-2632

Bennington Area AIDS Project

PO Box 1066 • Bennington VT 05201 • 442-4481 or (800) 845-2437

Brattleboro Area AIDS Project

PO Box 1486 • Brattleboro VT 05302 • 254-8263 or 254-4444 (Helpline) • E-mail: sbell@sover.net

Comprehensive Care Clinics (for HIV/AIDS)

Hotline: (800) 763-2460

Brattleboro: 257-8860

Burlington: 656-4594

Rutland: 747-1831

St. Johnsbury: 748-7361

Dawnland Center (Native American)

PO Box 1358 • 121 Barre St. • Montpelier VT 05601 • 229-0601 • E-mail: Nadrumin@aol.com

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous

PO Box 5653 • Burlington VT 05402 • 658-4221

Lesbian Cancer Support Group 660-8386

Men's Health Project (see Vermont CARES listing)

National Association for People With AIDS

(202) 898-0414

NH/VT HIV Information Network on the Web

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~hivnet/>

North Star Holistic Health Care

RR2 Box 3255 • Morrisville VT 05661 • 888-2858

Tribal Remedies (ALANA Community Organization)

8 Williston St. • Brattleboro VT 05301 • 254-2972

Twin State Women's Network

PO Box 3 • Cavendish VT 05142-0003 • 226-7807

E-mail: margoc@mail.tds.net

Web Site: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~hivnet/orgs/TWSN1.html>

Vermont AIDS Council

PO Box 275 • Montpelier VT 05601 • 229-2557

E-mail: vtatids@plainfield.bypass.com

Vermont CARES

PO Box 5248 • Burlington VT 05401 • 863-2437 or (800) 649-2437

PO Box 6033 • Rutland VT 05702 • 775-5884

Vermont Deaf AIDS Project

PO Box 172 • Brattleboro VT 05302 • (800) 257-1123

(TTY); (800) 253-0195 (Voice Relay);

(802) 257-2013 (Fax)

Vermont Department of Health

108 Cherry St. • PO Box 70 • Burlington VT 05402

AIDS Program Office: 863-7245

AIDS Hotline: (800) 882-2437

Vermont HIV/AIDS Care Consortium

PO Box 9 • Hinesburg VT 05461 • 482-5100

Vermont HIV/AIDS Education Network

PO Box 1784 • Burlington VT 05402-1784 • 862-1668

Vermont Office of Minority Health

c/o VT Dept. of Health (see above) • 863-7273

Vermont People With AIDS Coalition

PO Box 1055 • Brattleboro VT 05302 • 229-5754 or

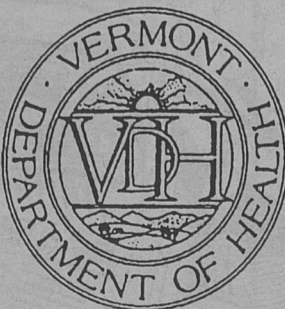
(800) 69-VT-PWA • E-mail: vtpwac@sover.net

Web Site: <http://www.sover.net/~vtpwac/>

Vermont Women's Health Center

336 North Ave. • Burlington VT 05401 • 863-1386

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Information



Call
800-882-AIDS

Associates in Recovery

Janet K. Brown, M.A., C.A.D.C.

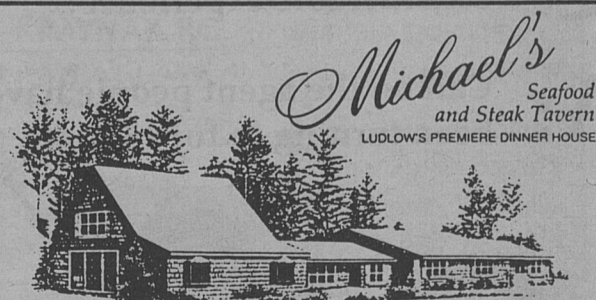
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